

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Wilhelmus Joseph Leonardus SUYKER et al.

Serial No.: NA

Group Art Unit: NA

Filed: HERewith

Examiner: NA

For: Connector, Applicator and Method for Mechanically Connecting Hollow Structures, in Particular Small Blood Vessels

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to the examination of the above-identified application and calculation of the filing fee, please amend the application as set forth below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Claim ~~27~~, line 1, delete “or 19”

Claim 28, line 1, delete "or 19"

Please add new claims 38-39 as set forth below:

-- 38. The applicator as claimed in claim 19, wherein the shank-like element is rigid.

39. The application as claimed in claim 19, wherein the shank-like element is flexible.--

REMARKS

The foregoing amendment is made to eliminate multiple dependent claims by rewriting claims 27 and 28 as two separate dependent claims.